

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

ORM-02 /073 W

----- 106013

R 030500Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6058

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 5519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SW , UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEFECTOR THREATENS SUICIDE IF FAMILY NOT
PERMITTED TO JOIN HIM

1. ACCORDING TO THE SWEDISH PRESS, A 41-YEAR OLD SOVIET
DEFECTOR NAMED VALENTIN AGAPOV, WHO LIVES IN ARBOGA,
SWEDEN, HAS THREATENED TO COMMIT SUICIDE IN FRONT OF THE
SOVIET EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM NOVEMBER 7 IF HIS FAMILY IS
NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. THE PAPERS
QUOTE AGAPOV, WHO HAS A MOTHER, WIFE AND DAUGHTER LIVING
IN THE USSR, AS SAYING THE SUICIDE WOULD BE "MY FINAL
PROTEST AGAINST THE INHUMANITY OF THE SOVIET
AUTHORITIES...I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT MY FAMILY."
NOVEMBER SEVEN WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT IS THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SOVIET OCTOBER REVOLUTION.

2. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS A TELEGRAPHIC APPEAL BY AGAPOV'S
LAWYER, PAVEL VESSELOV, TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM,
MIKHAIL JAKOVLEV, CITING THE HELSINKI CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT
AND ASSERTING THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD "SHOULDER THE
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RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE WHOLE WORLD" IF AGAPOV CARRIES

OUT HIS THREAT. THE TELEGRAM ALSO REPORTEDLY CITED THE STATEMENTS OF SEVERAL SWEDISH PHYSICIANS, ATTESTING TO AGAPOV'S GOOD HEALTH. (PRESUMABLY TO COUNTER ANY CHARGES THAT HE IS MENTALLY UNBALANCED). ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, AGAPOV HAS TALKED BY TELEPHONE WITH HIS WIFE, WHO HAS APPEALED TO HIM NOT TO COMMIT A "RASH" ACT.

3. REPORTEDLY ON THE ADVICE OF THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, MRS. AGAPOV APPLIED IN MOSCOW FOR PASSPORTS FOR HERSELF AND HER FAMILY, BUT HER FIRST APPLICATION WAS REJECTED AND A SECOND REQUEST IS PENDING.

4. A GROUP OF AGAPOV'S FRIENDS HAVE FORMED AN AGAPOV COMMITTEE WHICH REPORTEDLY PLANS DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE THE STOCKHOLM OPERA HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 6, WHEN THE LENINGRAD OPERA IS GIVING A PERFORMANCE. THE PRESS ALSO REPORT THAT "ACTION GROUPS" HAVE BEEN FORMED IN OTHER AREAS OF SWEDEN, INCLUDING THE SOUTHWESTERN PORT OF HELSINGBORG, WHERE AGAPOV DEFECTED FROM HIS FISHING VESSEL A YEAR AGO.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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